

## NOTICE

### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE TRIAL COURT

#### COURT-CONNECTED DISPUTE RESOLUTION SERVICES APPLICATION PROCESS FOR APPROVED PROGRAM STATUS

**The Chief Justice for Administration and Management, pursuant to the Uniform Rules on Dispute Resolution, Supreme Judicial Court Rule 1:18, hereby announces the commencement of the Uniform Application Process for programs seeking approval to receive referrals for court-connected alternative dispute resolution services in the Trial Court Departments.**

**1. Eligibility.** Pursuant to the Uniform Rules on Dispute Resolution a court-connected referral for dispute resolution services can be made only to programs. A program is approved by the Chief Justice of the applicable Trial Court Department in which it seeks to provide services.

**2. Approval of Programs.** All programs currently approved to provide court-connected alternative dispute resolution services in the Trial Court must reapply and any new programs seeking approval to provide court-connected dispute resolution services must apply for approval.

**3. Applicable Dates.**

- A.** A program seeking approval shall, no later than **November 17, 2006**, submit the Program Application to the Trial Court Department or Departments in which the program seeks to receive referrals.
- B.** The Department Chief Justices will make approval decisions no later than **January 1, 2007**.
- C.** An approved program will be eligible to provide services commencing **January 1, 2007**.
- D.** A program, unless no longer approved under the Uniform Rules of Dispute Resolution, retains its approval for a period of three years ending **December 31, 2009**.

**4. Obtaining Forms.** The application may be obtained at the Administrative Office of the Trial Court or on the Massachusetts Trial Court web site at [[www.state.ma.us/courts/admin/legal.html](http://www.state.ma.us/courts/admin/legal.html)].

**5. Questions.** Any questions about this notice may be directed to Timothy M. Linnehan, Esq., Acting Director, Support Services Department at the Administrative Office of the Trial Court (617-878-0372) or [linnehan\\_t@jud.state.ma.us](mailto:linnehan_t@jud.state.ma.us).

**Robert A. Mulligan**  
**Chief Justice for Administration and Management**  
**Dated: August 24, 2006**